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U-2 Maker Doubts Soviet Plane Story

By The Associated Press

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The designer of Lockheed Aircraft's U-2 single-engine jet plane said today he doubted that the Soviet Union had shot one down inside Soviet boundaries.

After having studied Soviet photographs of the aircraft, C. L. Johnson, the designer, concluded that they were faked.

"I think the crash photographs released by Russia are those of one of their own Beagle Bombers," Mr. Johnson said today. "It would be very interesting to know why they have hidden the U-2."

"After spending the best part of the week-end analyzing the photographs, with my top tech-

nical people, I am convinced that the Russians, for some reason, have released pictures of some other airplane crash."

"I do not believe they shot down the U-2 by either a missile or another aircraft. If they have the U-2 it is because some mechanical or oxygen failure caused it to descend far below its normal cruising altitude."

Mr. Johnson referred to a marked-up photograph by the result of his studies. He said the salient points indicated were these:

¶The wing section in the left foreground is definitely not that of a U-2. The wing taper is wrong as is the structural pattern of the ribs and beams.

¶The heavy structural element at the top of the photograph has no counterpart in the U-2.

¶Using the original wirephoto (which shows better detail than the newspaper reproductions) not one single U-2 part could be identified in the wreckage.

¶If the wreckage of the U-2 were as bad as that shown, it would be extremely unlikely that Premier Khrushchev would have any photograph to wave round his public. Much of the wreckage is damaged by fire, which might well destroy the

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